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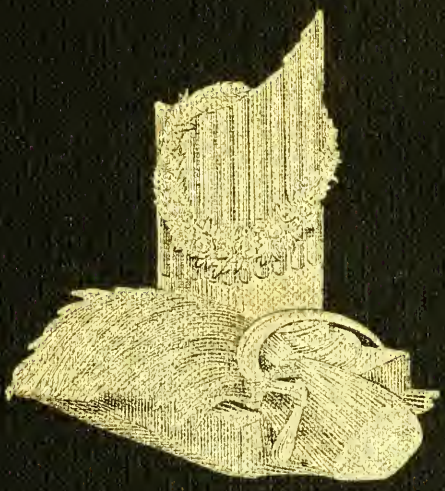

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J. T. Harrison

MEMORIAL

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SENATE

UPON THE DEATH OF

HON. JOHN T. HARRISON,

LATE A SENATOR FROM THE FOURTH DISTRICT

OF

PENNSYLVANIA.

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RESOLUTION.

In the Senate,
February 7, 1905.

Resolved, (if the House of Representatives concur), That one thousand (1,000) copies of the proceedings of the memorial services, held in honor of the late Honorable John T. Harrison, be printed for the use of the Senate.

FRANK A. JUDD,
Chief Clerk of the Senate.

The foregoing resolution concurred in February 8, 1905.

THOMAS H. GARVIN,
Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Approved—The 14th day of February, A. D. 1905.

SAML. W. PENNYPACKER.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SENATE

UPON THE DEATH OF

HON. JOHN T. HARRISON.

In the Senate,
Tuesday, January 24, 1905.

On motion of Senator Shepard, the following resolution was twice read, considered and agreed to, viz:

Resolved, That a committee of nine members of the Senate be appointed to draft suitable resolutions and prepare a programme for memorial exercises on the death of the late Senator John T. Harrison, of Philadelphia, who died on December eighteenth, one thousand nine hundred and three; of the late Senator Alexander E. Patton, who died September fifth, one thousand nine hundred and four, and upon the late Edwin W. Smiley, Chief Clerk, who died September seventh, one thousand nine hundred and four, and that a special meeting of the Senate be held Tuesday, February seventh, one thousand nine hundred and five, at two o'clock post meridian, to which said resolutions be submitted and the programme carried out.

MEMORIAL RESOLUTIONS AND ADDRESSES.

In the Senate,
Tuesday, February 7, 1905.

Afternoon Session.

Pursuant to adjournment the Senate was called to order at two o'clock post meridian, Lieutenant Governor Brown in the Chair.

The PRESIDENT (Lieutenant Governor Brown). Every Senator understands what the purpose of this meeting is. Since our last Assembly death has been more than unusually busy with the friends that we knew years ago.

PRAYER.

Prayer was offered by the Chaplain, Reverend J. Wesley Sullivan, as follows:

O, Lord, our God, Thou dost lead us in marvelous and wonderful ways, and at this time Thou dost bring us into the face of death, for those whose hands used to grasp at ours and whose faces used to look into our own are now silent in the grave beneath the winter snow. In Thy providence they have been taken away from us. They have gone down the valley, the deep, dark valley, we shall see their faces no more until we pass down the valley, the deep, dark valley and meet them on the other shore.

Thou art teaching us that in the midst of life we are in death, and though we may realize the activity of life and there may be no indication of our weakness or of the death that awaits us, nevertheless, O God, we realize by these lessons that we are passing away and sooner or later we must stand in Thy presence at the bar of judgment to render to Thee

an account of our stewardship, for we realize that the places that now know us shall soon know us no more forever.

Our desire and our prayer is that when Thy messenger shall come to us that we may be ready; forbid that any of us should put off this great question, the preparation for the life that is beyond, and that death should meet us unprepared for this great change, help us by Thy grace and by Thy sustaining power to so live that we may have no fear, and we pray especially for homes where death has come, where there are the widows and the beloved children, those who at this time look to this service being held here in memory of their beloved who have left them, we ask Thee that in their hearts of sorrow and bereavement may come Thy special blessing and comfort.

Bless us now, lead them and us by Thy presence so that when we are taken from this earthly home we may all go to that home not made by hands eternal in the heavens.

We ask it for Christ's sake, Amen.

Mr. SHEPARD. Mr. President, as chairman of the committee appointed to draft resolutions expressing the sentiment of the Senate on the death of Honorable John T. Harrison, I offer the following resolutions:

RESOLUTIONS.

Whereas, The Almighty in His wisdom has called to his eternal rest the Honorable John T. Harrison, the Senator from the Fourth district, and whereas his public and private life was a bright and noble example of honor, integrity and faithfulness; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate hereby express the deep sense of loss it has sustained in the death of Senator Harrison, whose entire life was devoted to the interests and benefits of his fellow men.

Resolved, That in Senator Harrison we ever found a true and faithful friend, an earnest advocate of the interests of the people, an upright citizen and an ever ready champion of the right.

Resolved, That the Senate records its sorrow at its close

and that it extends to his family its sincere sympathy for them in their bereavement and we hope that in their sorrow the memory of his attainments and achievements may be a balm to their hearts.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions, with the action of the Senate thereon, duly engrossed and attested, be forwarded to the family of the deceased.

JESSE S. SHEPARD,
EDWIN A. IRVIN,
H. H. CUMINGS,
JOHN M. SCOTT,
J. HENRY COCHRAN,
J. K. P. HALL,
CYRUS E. WOODS,
J. A. STOBER,
JOHN S. FISHER,
WILLIAM C. SPROUL,
President pro tempore,
Committee.

ADDRESSES.

Mr. SHEPARD. Mr. President and fellow Senators, As the successor of the late Senator John T. Harrison, it becomes my sorrowful duty to pay my humble tribute to his memory.

Senator Harrison was my personal and political friend and from my long and intimate acquaintance with him I knew him as a thoroughly honest, upright and conscientious gentleman; a sincere friend and a lovable companion. I cannot speak from a personal knowledge of his character, life and services as a member of the Legislature of this Commonwealth, but will leave that to those who knew him as a Senator and as a member of the House.

His early life was one filled with hardships; but, like many of our great men, the privations in early life were but the foundations for his success in later years.

He was born in Sheffield, England, March eighth, one thousand eight hundred and forty-nine (1849), and at the age of six months removed with his parents to Philadelphia, where he resided until his death.

He was educated in our public schools until he was fifteen years of age, when he enlisted with the Eleventh Maryland Volunteers, Company B, and served his country until the close of the war of the rebellion. After the war he engaged in various occupations and later entered one of the manufacturing establishments in Germantown. By his honesty, integrity, industry and perseverance he was rapidly advanced to the head of the well-known firm of Harrison & Mallatrat, of which firm he was a member at the time of his death.

He was actively engaged in politics and rendered many valuable services to his party and his many friends.

In the fall of one thousand eight hundred and ninety-one (1891), he was elected a member of the House of Representatives from the Twenty-first Legislative district to fill the unexpired term of the Honorable William H. Brooks, who had resigned from that body. He also served in the House during the sessions of one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three and one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five. Dur-

ing the session of one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three he contracted pneumonia and after a long illness he recovered, but never totally regained his health. In the fall of one thousand eight hundred and ninety-six he was nominated for re-election to the House, but on account of a factional fight and his loyalty to his friends, which characterized him as a man, he was defeated. In the fall of one thousand nine hundred he was elected to the House and served in that body during the session of one thousand nine hundred and one. In November, one thousand nine hundred and two, he was elected to the Senate from the Fourth Senatorial district and served in this body during the session of one thousand nine hundred and three. In December, one thousand nine hundred and three, he was nominated by the Republican party for the office of Receiver of Taxes for the county of Philadelphia. Within ten days after his nomination he was again stricken down with pneumonia and just at the time when he was about to be rewarded for his long and faithful services as a public official he was removed from among us by an all-powerful and far-seeing Providence.

The announcement of his sudden death cast a gloom over the whole community, and the throng of citizens from all parts of the State who silently followed the remains to their last resting place eloquently expressed the profound sorrow felt by all who knew him. The loss of Senator Harrison caused a sensible gap in the councils of his party. As to the district which he represented and the section of the State with which he was particularly identified no strange tongue may venture to attempt words of adequate consolation. His sudden and untimely death serves as a warning to us to heed the Voice which comes to us all, both as individuals and as public officers, in so solemn and signal a Province of God: that whatever happens we must all die; that we should reflect how vain are the personal strifes and partisan contests in which we daily engage in view of the great account which we may soon be called upon to render.

Senator Harrison leaves a widow, a son and two daughters. I may say without invading the sacred precincts of that now sad home in Philadelphia, that I cannot find words to ade-

quately describe the unremitting love and unselfish devotion which characterized him as a loving father and a devoted husband. Senator Harrison was a loyal friend and both in public and private life he won the esteem and admiration of all who knew him.

Mr. CHARLES L. BROWN made a brief address expressing his appreciation of the good qualities of Senator Harrison and his regret at his decease, the loss felt by the Senate and the circle of his family and friends.

Mr. SISSON. Mr. President, as a brother Senator I did not have any personal acquaintance with Senator Harrison to whom we pay tribute to-day until he took his seat at the opening of the session of one thousand nine hundred and three. I remember him well as he joined us then. I was impressed with the ability, intelligence and energy manifested by him in the discharge of his official duties. I remember him well as he appeared with delegations before different committees of which I was a member, and I remember the good judgment and intelligence manifested by him in behalf of his constituents. I noted him as he followed his bills from the committee and guided them upon the floor of the Senate and I noted again that he followed them through the House, and when at the end of the session the result appeared in the shape of a bound volume, I again noticed that his work was well done.

We were neighbors, Senator Harrison's seat in the old circle having been near to my own. His uniform courtesy, kindness and consideration for others made him a desirable neighbor and a valuable member of the Senate. As the daily sessions passed in their order it was always a pleasure to note that his chair was filled and its vacancy was always accompanied with regret. I often found myself listening to his response to roll call at his place in the roll and it takes a second thought to remind me that he has gone to the great beyond.

I consider that in the hereafter it will be well with me if I shall again respond to the roll call as his neighbor.

Mr. GODCHARLES. Mr. President and gentlemen of the Senate, It was my honor and good fortune to serve for a

brief period in the lower House of the Commonwealth with our deceased colleague, Senator Harrison.

Would that I had the power of thought and speech that I might be able to add a word to the record and achievements of this soldier-statesman, business man and colleague, which have been so eloquently eulogized here to-day, and I speak on behalf of those members of this body who came up from the lower branch with Senator Harrison.

We fully realize what the loss of such a member means to this body and to the Commonwealth he so ably and justly served and assure you the news of his serious illness and sudden death came as a shock to his friends and colleagues.

Mr. SPROUL. Mr. President, I am glad to have an opportunity of saying a few informal words of respect to our late colleague. I became quite well acquainted with Senator Harrison in the only term in which he served in the Senate. I had known him as a member of the House before but did not become intimately acquainted with him until he came here among us.

His career always impressed me as being typical of the advantages which our country and epecially our State offers to young men who start as he did, along a rough road in life, and who by ability, intelligence and probity bring themselves to a high position in business and in the affairs of the State. Born in England in the manufacturing districts, like so many men here who have brought the textile skill of Lancashire and Yorkshire into Pennsylvania, Senator Harrison, as I say, typified the strong race from which he came, and his career shows what a man of his characteristics can accomplish under our institutions.

When he came to the Senate his quiet, unostentatious ways, his attention to duty, immediately won him a place here. He was highly regarded and respected, and, as my colleague from Erie says, his place was always filled and his attention was always with the matter in hand and before the Senate.

In speaking to those who knew him well, I would speak of three characteristics of Senator Harrison which, it seems to me, go far in making up character in any man. The first was his kindness in his home, his devotion to his family; the

second was his fidelity to his friends, and the third was his general kindliness of heart with those with whom he was brought into contact actively in business. He found time to be kind. It seems to me that when the final reckoning is made and the score is cast up on the great day that a man of Senator Harrison's characteristics will be far advanced along the road which we all hope we may travel.

His loss was not only a great loss to his home and family, but to the Senate and State as well, and his place here will be respected and honored as long as any of us are left to remember his faithful service.

Mr. HERBST. Mr. President, well aware of the virtue of the old Latin proverb, "De mortuis nihil nisi bonum," nevertheless, I shall say naught but what springs from an honest opinion. I desire to bring my laurel wreath of esteem to the memory of John Harrison. I first met Senator Harrison four years ago when he as a member of the House, and I as a Senator, convalescing from a serious illness, took our meals at the same table for several months. That long session running through the early budding and blooming of flowers and mating of birds into midsummer, gave us a great opportunity to be more social than usual and to become well acquainted. I found him a genial, big hearted, whole-souled gentleman. Partisan he was, but at the same time liberal enough to give an honest opponent credit for his convictions. While he had no sympathy with an insurgent in his own ranks, being firmly for the organization, he could honor and respect a Democrat. My relations with him were pleasant, and his sudden, unexpected death was a severe shock. I attended his funeral out of sincere personal regard, and the large concourse of people there spoke in eloquence greater than words of the esteem in which he was held by his neighbors, who after all are the best judges of a manly man.

He died poor, an eloquent tribute to his honesty. Randall, Kelly and Harrison poor after a life of public service. What oases among Philadelphia politicians! While others were amassing wealth he evidently looked after the interests of his people. Glorious news for his city and the constituency he honored. I regarded John Harrison as a friend and manly

man while in life and after "life's fitful fever" may he have earned the reward of those who labor faithfully here for so brief a time, in that land, where the weary cease from toil forever.

"Honest toil is blest, and he who works most faithfully has earned the sweetest rest."

The PRESIDENT. It was a pleasure for anyone to know Senator Harrison. I knew him but briefly, but on every occasion when it was my privilege to come in contact with him I found him a manly man and a splendid Senator. While his successor may do possibly more than he, he always did his best.

The PRESIDENT. The question is on the adoption of the resolutions offered relative to the late Senator from Philadelphia, Mr. Harrison,

The question being,

Will the Senate agree to the resolutions?

They were unanimously agreed to.

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